

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): A modular window well, comprising:

first and second wall members, each defining upper and lower edges, and generally vertical opposite side edges;
each wall member including at least one wedge adjacent each opposite side edge and adjacent a selected one of the upper and lower edges, each wedge defining a generally horizontal axis and a side edge extending at an acute angle relative to the horizontal axis and a retaining edge extending transverse to the horizontal axis;
each wall member further including at least one wedge-engaging surface adjacent each opposite side edge and adjacent the other of the upper and lower edges, the retaining edges of the wedges engaging the wedge-engaging surfaces to interconnect the first and second wall members in a vertically stacked configuration.

2. (Original): The modular window well of claim 1, wherein:

the wedge-engaging surfaces comprise edges of openings through the first and second wall members.

3. (Original): The modular window well of claim 1, wherein:

the wedge comprises a horizontally extending web.

4. (Original): The modular window well of claim 1, wherein:

the first wall member is positioned above the second wall member with a lower edge portion of the first wall member overlapping an upper edge portion of the second wall member.

5. (Original): The modular window well of claim 4, wherein:

the lower edge portion of the first wall member comprises a lower horizontally extending flange, and the upper edge portion of the second wall comprises an upper horizontally extending flange that abuts the lower horizontally extending flange to support the first wall member above the second wall member.

6. (Original): The modular window well of claim 5, wherein:

the first and second wall members have a U-shape in plan view.

7. (Original): The modular window well of claim 6, wherein:

the first and second wall members include transversely mounting flanges adjacent the opposite side edges, and wherein at least a portion of the mounting flanges of the first wall member overlap the mounting flanges of the second wall member.

8. (Original): The modular window well of claim 7, wherein:

the overlapping portions of the mounting flanges have aligned openings for receiving a fastener.

9. (Original): The modular window well of claim 8, wherein:

the first and second wall members include horizontally extending steps having spaced apart upper and lower webs and a pair of vertically extending reinforcing ribs extending between and interconnecting the upper and lower webs.

10. (Previously Presented): A modular window well, comprising:

a generally vertical wall member having spaced apart first and second end portions, each end portion including a connecting structure, the vertical wall member having a central portion horizontally spaced from the first and second end portions to define a central space bounded by the end portions and the central portion and wherein the connecting structure is configured to simultaneously secure the first and second end portions of the wall member to a foundation of a building with the central portion spaced apart from such a foundation; and

first and second extension wall members having first side edge portions secured to the first and second portions, each extension wall member further including a second side edge portion having connecting structure for securing the extension wall member to the foundation of a building.

11. (Original): The modular window well of claim 10, wherein:

the generally vertical wall member includes a horizontally elongate channel to provide stiffness.

12. (Original): The modular window well of claim 11, wherein:

the first and second extension wall members each include a channel aligned with the channel of the vertical wall member.

13. (Original): The modular window well of claim 12, wherein:

the end portions of the vertical wall member have a cross-sectional shape that is substantially the same as that of the first and second extension wall members.

14. (Original): The modular window well of claim 10, wherein:

the connecting structures of the vertical wall member and the first and second extension wall members comprise flanges having a plurality of openings therethrough.

15. (Original): The modular window well of claim 10, wherein:

the vertical wall member has a U-shape in plan view.

16. (Original): The modular window well of claim 15, wherein:

the central portion of the vertical wall member includes a transversely extending portion forming a step, the transversely extending portion having spaced apart upper and lower walls defining a gap there between.

17. (Original): The modular window well of claim 16, including:

at least one rib extending between and interconnecting upper and lower walls.

18. (Original): The modular window well of claim 17, including:

an opening through the vertical wall member adjacent the step to form a handle.

19. (Original): The modular window well of claim 17, wherein:

said rib defines an outer surface and including a cavity in the outer surface for receiving a screw.

20. (Original): The modular window well of claim 18, wherein:

the opening extends through the upper wall of the transversely extending portion.

21-38 (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended): A modular window well, comprising:

first and second wall members each having opposite side edges including attachment flanges for securing the first and second wall members to the foundation of a building, the first and second wall members having a central portion spaced horizontally from the side edges to form a central space, the first and second wall members being vertically stacked upon one another; and wherein:

wherein the attachment flanges of the first wall member include offset portions that overlap a portion of the attachment flanges of the second wall member;

wherein when the first and second wall members are vertically stacked upon one another, at least a portion of an exterior surface of both of the attachment flanges of the first and second wall members are visible.

40. (Currently Amended): The modular window well of claim [[21]] 39, wherein:

the overlapping portions of the attachment flanges have aligned openings therethrough for receiving a fastener.

41. (Currently Amended): The modular window well of claim [[21]] 39, wherein:

the first and second wall members each include a wedge and an opening adjacent each opposite side edge, wherein the wedges of the first wall member are received in the openings of the second wall member to interconnect the first and second wall members.

42. (Currently Amended): The modular window well of claim [[21]] 39, wherein:

the first and second wall members are made of a structural foam material.

43. (Currently Amended): The modular window well of claim [[24]] 42, wherein:

the weight of the first and second wall members is small enough to permit installation by a single worker.

44. (Currently Amended): A window well member, comprising:

a sidewall having opposite side edges and a central portion extending from the opposite side edges to define a central space, the sidewall including vertically extending attachment flange structure adjacent each opposite side edge for attachment to a building structure, the sidewall further including stop structures extending transversely

relative to the flange structure adjacent each side edge, the stop structures configured to engage another substantially identical window well member nested within the window well member.

45. (Currently Amended): The window well member of claim [[26]] 44, wherein:

the window well member includes a barb adjacent each side edge, and an opening adjacent each side edge configured to receive a barb of a substantially identical window well member to interconnect the window well members in a vertically stacked configuration.

46. (Currently Amended): A window well structure, comprising:

a generally upright first wall having end portions, each end portion having attachment structure configured to attach the first wall to a building, the first wall having a central portion extending from the end portions to define a central space;

the first wall having an inner side facing the central space, and including upper and lower transversely extending webs forming a step, wherein the upper and lower webs are spaced apart to define a gap therebetween; [[and:]]

a web extending transversely towards the central space and extending between and interconnecting the upper and lower webs to reinforce the step; and

a substantially identical second wall being vertically stacked upon the first wall, wherein the attachment structure of the first wall includes an offset portion that overlaps a portion of the attachment structure of the second wall, wherein at least a portion of an

exterior surface of both of the attachment structures of the first and second walls are visible.

47. (Currently Amended): The window well structure of claim [[28]] 46, wherein:

the upper and lower webs extend inwardly towards said central space.

48. (Currently Amended): The window well structure of claim [[29]] 47, wherein: the upper and lower webs extend generally horizontally.

49. (Currently Amended): The window well structure of claim [[30]] 48, including:

a radiused wall extending between and interconnecting the upper and lower webs to form an end edge of the step.

50. (Currently Amended): The window well structure of claim [[28]] 46, wherein:

the web includes an integral boss having a cavity adapted to receive a threaded fastener.

51. (Currently Amended): A modular window well, comprising:

first and second generally upright wall members, each having end portions configured to fit along a building foundation, and a central wall portion extending from the end portions to define a central space, wherein the first and second wall members are vertically juxtaposed with an upright portion of the first upright wall member overlapping the second wall member, wherein the end portions of the first and second wall members

have a flange with a plurality of openings therethrough for connecting the first and second wall members to a building structure, wherein at least a portion of an exterior surface of the flanges of the first and second wall members are visible when the first and second wall members are vertically juxtaposed, the overlapping portion of the first wall member including a boss having a cavity facing an upright portion of the second wall member, such that a fastener can be extended generally horizontally through the second wall member and into the boss to interconnect the first and second wall members.

52. (Currently Amended): The modular window well of claim [[33]] 51, wherein:

the first wall member includes a step having upper and lower generally horizontal webs defining a gap therebetween, and wherein the boss is positioned in the gap.

53. (Currently Amended): The modular window well of claim [[34]] 52, wherein:

a web extends between and interconnects the upper and lower webs, and wherein the boss is integrally formed with the web.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended): The modular window well of claim [[33]] 51, wherein:

the first and second wall members are substantially identical and have a U-shape in plan view.

56. (Currently Amended): The modular window well of claim [[33]] 51, wherein:

the first and second wall members are made of a structural foam material.